(b) whether 30 per cent of the teaching and non-teaching posts in the country's Central and State Universities are lying vacant despite the efforts made by the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of vacant posts of lecturers and non-teaching categories in the academic year 2008-09, university-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up all these vacant posts both in the Central and State Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Information in regard to Universities and Colleges is available in Library.

(b) and (c) Based on information collected by the UGC from a sample of 14 Central Universities and 40 State Universities, the percentage of vacancies in Central Universities for the category of Lecturers is 29%, for Readers 34%, for Professors 42% and percentage of vacant non-teaching posts in Central Universities range from 21% in Group 'D' to 28% in Group 'A'. In respect of State Universities, the status of vacant posts of Lecturers has been found to be 33%, for Readers 42%, for Professors 19% and in respect of non-teaching posts in State Universities, the vacancies range from 17% for Group 'D' and 27% for Group 'A' posts. One of the important reasons for posts lying vacant in State Universities has been the ban on recruitment to posts in States said to be due to lack of funds. Both, in respect of Central Universities as well as the State Universities, it may be generally stated that teaching as a career has been unable to attract suitable candidates due to comparatively more attractive remuneration in the other avenues in a growing economy.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The age of superannuation in teaching posts has been increased from 62 years to 65 years and further selectively till the age of 70 years so as to prevent depletion of qualified teachers. Revised package of Pay Bands, perquisites and other benefits has been implemented, making it more attractive than salaries etc. for Civil Servants. This is expected to make teaching as a career more attractive to the youth. The Central Government also impresses upon Stale Governments to lift their ban, wherever it is so, on employment of teachers and persons in non-teaching posts.

Schools and hostels in minority dominated districts

981. SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools that have been established in the designated minority dominated districts of the country so far, district-wise;

(b) the number of hostels built therein specifically for the minority boys/girls, district-wise; and

(c) the total number of students who are living in those hostels, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 9613 New Primary Schools and 10875 New Upper Primary Schools have been sanctioned in 121 districts with substantial minority population during 2006-07 —2009-10 for the minority boys and girls.

(b) Ministry of Minority Affairs has undertaken Multi-sectoral Development Programme for the minority concentration districts ***w.e.f.*** 2008-09. Under this programme, construction of hostels has been approved in principle. However, formal sanction will take some time.

(c) In view of (b) above, it does not arise.

Training to SC/ST students for higher studies

982. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving any training to students who want to pursue higher studies especially for the categories like SC/ST free-of-cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof especially in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years compared to other States, State-wise; and

(c) the funds released and spent during the last three years especially in Andhra Pradesh compared to other States, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information supplied by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the following schemes form components of the Merged Schemes in the Eleventh Plan for which block grants are provided by UGC to universities and colleges:—

(i) Scheme for establishment of Remedial Coaching classes at undergraduate and postgraduate level for students from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from the non-creamy layer and Minorities.

(ii) Coaching classes for entry into services for SCs, STs, OBCs (Non-creamy layer) and Minorities.

(iii) Coaching for preparation of the National Eligibility Test (NET) for SCs, STs, OBCs (Non-creamy layer) and Minorities.

In addition to the above schemes, UGC is also providing assistance to students directly for pursuit of higher studies through scholarships and fellowships, namely (i) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC candidates for pursuing M. Phil/Ph.D, funds for which are provided by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, (ii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST